

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 03525 150808Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, US, TH

SUBJ: FORMER THAI FOREIGN MINISTER THANAT ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON
RUSK-THANAT JOINT STATEMENT

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD FEB 11 IN BANGKOK FORMER THAI
FOREIGN MINISTER THANAT KHOMAN HAD FOLLOWING EXCHANGE
REGARDING RUSK-THANAT JOINT STATEMENT OF 1962 (UNOFFICIAL
TRANSLATION BY USIS):

QTE Q - SOME POLITICIANS SAY THAT THE AGREEMENT REACHED
IN THE THANAT-DEAN RUSK JOINT STATEMENT IS NO LONGER
IN FORCE. DO YOU CONSIDER THAT IT IS STILL IN FORCE?
QTE THANAT - IT WAS TAKEN UP FOR CONSIDERATION BY A
FORMER GOVERNMENT, AND THE CONCLUSION REACHED WAS THAT
IT HAD EXPIRED BECAUSE BOTH THE SIGNATORIES OF THAT
JOINT STATEMENT ARE NO LONGER IN THEIR OFFICIAL POSI-
TIONS. THE U.S., HOWEVER ASSERTS THAT THE AMERICAN
GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT THE JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED
BY DEAN RUSK AND ME IS STILL IN FORCE. IT IS, THEREFORE,
UP TO YOU TO USE YOUR OWN JUDGEMENT WHETHER YOU WILL
BE OF THE SAME VIEW AS THE U.S., OR WHETHER YOU WILL
BE OF THE SAME VIEW AS A FORMER THAI GOVERNMENT. YOU
SHOULD FURTHER CONSIDER WHETHER THAT JOINT STATEMENT IS
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 03525 150808Z

IN THE INTERESTS OF THAILAND OR OF THE U.S. IF IT IS
STILL IN FORCE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW, ANY
INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT CONCLUDED AND SIGNED BY PERSONS,
WHO ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS
AND WHO HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERN-
MENTS TO CONCLUDE AND SIGN THE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED,
WHO HAVE NOT ACTED ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE, THAT AGREE-

MENT WILL CONTINUE REMAINING IN FORCE, REGARDLESS OF ANY CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT, EITHER IN THAILAND OR IN THE U.S. IT WILL CONTINUE REMAINING IN FORCE AS LONG AS BOTH COUNTRIES CONCERNED DO NOT REACH AGREEMENT TO ABLISH IT.

QTE Q - NO NEGOTIATION HAVE BEEN HELD BY THE TWO COUNTRIES TO ABOLISH THE AGREEMENT IN THAT JOINT STATEMENT?

QTE THANAT - IT HAS NOT BEEN ABLISHED YET. THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS NOT FORMALLY INFORMED THE U.S. THAT IT IS ABOLISHED; NEITHER HAS THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT FORMALLY INFORMED THAILAND THAT IT IS ABOLISHED. END QTE.

COMMENT: THANAT STATEMENT AT PRESS CONFERENCE FEB 11 IS ESSENTIALLY SIMILAR TO HIS STATEMENT IN RADIO INTERVIEW OF OCT 14, 1976 (REF). ONLY NEW ITEM IS HIS REMARK THAT A FORMER THAI GOVERNMENT HAD REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT THE RUSK-THANAT JOINT STATEMENT HAD EXPIRED BECAUSE THE SIGNATORIES OF IT NO LONGER HELD THEIR OFFICIAL POSITIONS. WE WERE NOT RPT NOT PREVIOUSLY AWARE THAT THE SUBJECT HAD COME UP FOR CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE THAI GOVERNMENT. CERTAINLY, THE SUBJ HAD NOT COME UP FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION IN THE PAST YEAR OR SO. FROM THE MANNER IN WHICH THANAT DESCRIBES THE INCIDENT, IT SOUNDS AS IF HE IS REFERRING TO CONSIDERATION OF THE RUSK-THANAT JOINT STATEMENT BY THE KHUKRIT GOVERNMENT. WHITEHOUSE

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Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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